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Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at its 2011 sessions

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Contents

Decisions

Decision number	*Title*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2011/1	Biennial support budget for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for 2010-2011	26 January 2011	
2011/2	Proposed financial regulations and rules of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	8 April 2011	
2011/3	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-2013	30 June 2011	
2011/4	Least developed countries	30 June 2011	
2011/5	Biennial institutional budget for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for 2012-2013	7 December 2011	

Decisions

2011/1
Biennial support budget for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for 2010-2011

At its first regular session, on 26 January 2011, *the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*:

1. *Stressed* the importance of enabling the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to enhance its support to countries in their pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of women and affirmed its intention to support the Executive Director of UN-Women in the mobilization of voluntary resources;

2. *Took note* of the proposals for the use of voluntary resources for the support budget for the biennium 2010-2011,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the management response to the report of the Advisory Committee;[3]

3. *Welcomed* the commitment of the Executive Director to mobilize UN-Women and to achieve results in gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to implement its mandate under General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 without delay;

4. *Endorsed* the priority attached by the Executive Director, in the management response to the report of the Advisory Committee, to providing universal access, to enhancing regional coordination mechanisms and to strengthening and improving support for countries through initial measures at the regional, subregional and country levels, as set out in paragraphs 13 to 29 of the management report, as well as to the establishment of the senior management team and the targeted strengthening of capacity at headquarters, as set out in paragraphs 9 to 12 and 30 to 35 of the report, and requested a report thereon to the Executive Board at its annual session of 2011;

5. *Recalled* that the composition and selection of staff of UN-Women shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, with due regard to geographical representation and gender balance;

6. *Welcomed* the proposals of the Executive Director to enhance transparency and accountability to the Executive Board, while also strengthening the UN-Women institutional framework for support activities, by moving progressively towards financing core support requirements through the support budget rather than through programme resources;

7. *Approved* gross voluntary resources in the amount of $51.5 million, representing the total biennial support budget for 2010-2011 funded from voluntary resources;

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[1] UNW/2011/3.
[2] UNW/2011/4.
[3] UNW/2011/4/Add.1.

8. *Also approved* the additional amount of $2.5 million from voluntary core resources to cover United Nations-mandated security costs and $0.3 million for costs related to the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and enhancement of the Atlas system;

9. *Further approved* from voluntary core resources the additional amounts of $5 million to support change management and $3 million for the move of premises and related technology installation;

10. *Decided* that the total support budget for 2010-2011 funded from voluntary resources did not prejudge its decision on the strategic plan;

11. *Looked forward* to the consideration of, with a view to adopting, the strategic plan for 2011-2013 for UN-Women at its annual session of 2011, and noted, in that regard, that a consequent review of the support budget for 2011 might be required;

12. *Requested* the Executive Director to collaborate closely with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund towards the harmonization of budget and results methodologies, including in their work towards achieving an integrated budget in 2014, cost classifications and results-based budgeting, to prepare for consideration, at the second regular session of 2011, of the biennial support budget for 2012-2013 on the basis of such harmonization, to keep the Executive Board apprised on these matters and to continue to work closely with the Executive Board in the development of that methodology;

13. *Recalled* General Assembly resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010, and requested the Executive Director to ensure that the proposed biennial support budget of 2012-2013 was prepared in accordance with paragraph 75 of Assembly resolution 64/289 and that it reflected the analysis conducted pursuant to the request contained in section VI, paragraphs 8 and 9, of Assembly resolution 65/259.

2011/2
Proposed financial regulations and rules of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

At its resumed first regular session of 2011, on 8 April 2011, *the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*,

Recalling paragraph 79 of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010,

Having considered the report on the proposed financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)[4] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5]

1. *Took note* of the report on the proposed financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women[4]

[4] UNW/2011/5 and Rev.1 and UNW/2011/5/Add.1.
[5] UNW/2011/7.

and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[5]

2. *Adopted* the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.[6]

2011/3
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-2013

At its annual session of 2011, on 30 June 2011, *the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*:

1. *Welcomed* the presentation by the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) of the first United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-2013;[7]

2. *Affirmed* that the goals set out in the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[8] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[9] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[10] as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women, form the framework of the strategic plan;

3. *Underlined* that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in implementing its strategic plan, will provide assistance in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women, with the agreement and consent of the host country, in accordance with national priorities, and adopt a national ownership principle in field activities;

4. *Underscored* the importance of the role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, with the aim of elaborating a clear division of roles and responsibilities in this area in close consultation with the relevant entities of the United Nations system within their respective mandates;

5. *Acknowledged* the need for the strategic plan to be driven by longer-term vision, goals and expected results to 2017 and by the principle of universality, and in that regard recognized that the programme related to UN-Women as part of the proposed United Nations strategic framework was aligned with the strategic plan, and the need to ensure alignment of the strategic plan with the strategic planning cycles of other United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies and harmonization between Executive Boards, to the extent possible, as well as with the

[6] As contained in document UNW/2011/5/Rev.1.

[7] As contained in document UNW/2011/9.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

6. *Recognized* the results-based approach of the UN-Women strategic plan; in this regard, requested UN-Women to further develop the results frameworks and present a timetable for regular consultations with Member States on this matter, in order to further develop the linkages between outputs and outcomes, including clearly identifying indicators, baselines and targets of the results frameworks of UN-Women, and requested the Executive Director of UN-Women to present the revised results frameworks to the Executive Board of UN-Women for its consideration prior to its annual session of 2013;

7. *Emphasized* that UN-Women needed increased financial resources in order to fully implement its strategic plan, and in this regard encouraged all Member States to increase their core contributions to UN-Women in a predictable and stable manner and, where feasible, on a multi-year basis;

8. *Endorsed* the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013;

9. *Requested* the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, beginning at its annual session of 2012, an annual progress report on the strategic plan, 2011-2013, and to provide updates at its regular sessions of 2012 and 2013;

10. *Also requested* the Executive Director to emphasize the importance of education and training as an enabling instrument for women's empowerment and leadership, to mobilize relevant United Nations bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening the provision of specialized education and training, in particular by using existing modalities and mechanisms, and report on progress made in the annual progress report to the Board;

11. *Recognized* the difficulties and challenges faced by the least developed countries in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in that regard welcomed the endorsement of the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020[11] by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, requested UN-Women, in accordance with its mandate, to give special attention to the least developed countries and to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and requested the Executive Director to report thereon in her report on the annual session;

12. *Also recognized* that, despite their achievements and efforts, middle-income countries still faced significant challenges in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in that regard, requested UN-Women to provide the appropriate strategic support, within its mandate, taking into account the significant diversity of middle-income countries and the specific needs of each of those countries.

[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

2011/4
Least developed countries

At its annual session of 2011, on 30 June 2011, *the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*:

1. *Welcomed* the endorsement of the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (hereinafter referred to as the Istanbul Programme of Action)[12] by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011;

2. *Recalled* the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system as contained in General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007;

3. *Welcomed* the strong support given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to the least developed countries;

4. *Stressed* the need for UN-Women to give special attention to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in its support of the least developed countries in accordance with its mandate as established in General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010;

5. *Invited* the Executive Director to integrate the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the activities of UN-Women in accordance with its mandate, as called for in paragraph 153 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 65/280, and to report thereon in her annual report.

2011/5
Biennial institutional budget for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for 2012-2013

At its second regular session of 2011, on 7 December 2011, *the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*:

1. *Stressed* the importance of enabling the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to enhance its support to countries in their support of gender equality and the empowerment of women, which will be carried out in accordance with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan[13] and the annexes thereto, as endorsed in its decision 2011/3 of 30 June 2011, and affirmed its intention to support the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women in the mobilization of voluntary resources;

2. *Took note* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director on the use of voluntary resources for the institutional budget for the

[12] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

[13] UNW/2011/9.

biennium 2012-2013,[14] the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[15] on the proposed UN-Women institutional budget estimates, 2012-2013;

3. *Noted* the management response to the report of the Advisory Committee[16] and requested the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women to take fully into account the observations and recommendations of the Committee in the preparation of future institutional budgetary proposals;

4. *Welcomed* the ongoing effort to strengthen the presence of UN-Women at the field level in accordance with the principles laid out in its decision 2011/3, inter alia, in paragraph 3 thereof, and in annex IV of the UN-Women strategic plan for 2011-2013, and looked forward to receiving information periodically from the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director in that regard, including on the staffing and posts functions in field offices;

5. *Also welcomed* the intention of UN-Women to keep the management and administration component of the institutional budget to the minimum necessary so that the pace of growth in support activities did not exceed the rate of programmes development-related activities;

6. *Further welcomed* the results-based budgeting approach used for the UN-Women institutional budget estimates for 2012-2013, including the application of harmonized cost classifications, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Executive Board decision 2011/1 of 26 January 2011;

7. *Welcomed* the organizational efficiency and effectiveness initiative, and encouraged the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to continue to seek efficiencies so as to ensure the maximum possible funds available for development programmes and invited the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to inform the Executive Board, at its annual session of 2012, with regard to results of measures designed to improve business processes and enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness;

8. *Looked forward* to considering at its annual session of 2012 a report of the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to the Executive Board on the conclusions of the regional architecture review, including potential reconfiguration of regional, subregional and country presence and the budgetary implications of the report;

9. *Requested* the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to ensure that all sources of funding bear their fair share of management costs and that non-core voluntary resources were not subsidized by core voluntary resources;

10. *Approved* a gross appropriation of 140.8 million United States dollars for the institutional budget for 2012-2013;

11. *Noted* that funding from core voluntary resources had been estimated at 132.3 million United States dollars and from other resources and trust funds at 8.5 million United States dollars, and recognized that additional extrabudgetary income earned should be used for the institutional budget;

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[14] UNW/2011/11.

[15] UNW/2011/12.

[16] UNW/2011/12/Add.1.

12. *Requested* the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to submit, for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2012, proposals for the principles, criteria and procedures that should guide the use of cost-recovery income, taking into account the harmonized cost-recovery policies and methodologies used by the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund;

13. *Authorized* UN-Women to carry forward to 2012-2013 2 million United States dollars of the unutilized balance of resources approved by the Executive Board for change management in paragraph 9 of its decision 2011/1 of 26 January 2011, in further support of the change management process, including the regional architecture review and organizational efficiency and effectiveness initiative, and requested the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on the use of those resources at the second regular session of 2012;

14. *Requested* the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to make further efforts to strengthen linkages between results, as outlined in the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, and resources utilized, in the context of the submission of an integrated budget for programme and institutional support for the biennium 2014-2015;

15. *Also requested* the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to continue to enhance the clarity and transparency of future institutional budgets;

16. *Recalled* General Assembly resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010 and paragraph 13 of Executive Board decision 2011/1 and looked forward to considering, in the context of the proposed institutional budget for 2014-2015, the outcome of the analysis conducted to specify which activities were to be considered normative, operational or a combination of the two, in accordance with paragraph 75 of Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, and invited the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director to keep the Executive Board updated on progress in that regard.